

PROMOTER SEQUENCES**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates an isolated promoter region of the mammalian transcription factor *FOXC2*. The invention also relates to screening methods for agents modulating the expression of *FOXC2* and thereby being potentially useful for the treatment of medical conditions related to obesity. The invention further relates to a previously 5 unknown variant of the human *FOXC2* gene, derived via the use of an alternative promoter, which produces an additional exon that generates a distinct open reading frame via splicing. The alternative gene encodes a variant of the *FOXC2* transcription factor, which is lacking a part of the DNA-binding domain and consequently has a potential regulatory function.

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